PRIMITIVE ORDINATION AND SUCCESSION OF *BISHOPS, DEACONS, PASTORS and TEACHERS in the CHURCH of* CHRIST.

By George Fox.

As thou ſenteſt me into the World, even ſo alſo ſend I them into the World; they are not of the World, even as I am not of the World, John 17.

Ye ſhall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you, John 14. 20.

I in them, and thou in me, John 17.

Go and teach all Nations, I will be with you to the End of the World, Mat. 28.

Go ye into all the World, and preach the Goſpel, Mark 16.

Examine your ſelves whether you be in the Faith, prove your own ſelves, know ye not your own ſelves, how that Jeſus Chriſt is in you, except ye be Reprobates, 2 Cor. 13. 5.

Printed in the Year 1675.

How Chriſt ordained his Twelve Apoſtles, and Seventy Diſciples.

How he would be with them to the End of the World, and in them.

What was the Maintenance he ordained for them.

How Chriſt choſe and ordained Paſtors, Teachers, Prophets, and Evangeliſts in the Church.

And the Primitive Ordination of Biſhops, and Deacons, and Elders in the Church.

Alſo who they are that do ſucceed them in their Ordination, Succeſſion, Poſſeſſion, Doctrine and Practice, in their Preaching, Praying, Singing and Maintenance, and who not.

CONCERNING

Ordination

AND

Succeſſion,

About which there is ſo much Diſcourſe and Work in all Chriſtendom.

LEave off all your Buſling, and come to Chriſt and his Apoſtles, and ſee how they were ordained and ſent forth; Chriſt ſaith in *Mat.* 28. *Go therefore, and teach all Nations, &c.* Now here was the Command of Chriſt, after he was riſen: So theſe were not to ſit down in Benefices, but they were to go and teach all Nations; the Nation of *Eſau*, and the *Egyptians*, *Hams* and *Tartars*, *Barbarians*, *Scythians*, *&c.*

Theſe did not reaſon, What ſhall I do with my Wife and Children; or how ſhall I do for a maintenance; ſo as Chriſt commanded them to go and teach all Nations? here was the Love of God and Chriſt to all the World: And again *Mark* 16. Chriſt ſaid unto his Diſciples, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the Goſpel to every Creature*; mark, to every Creature the Goſpel of Salvation was to be

preached; here Christ makes no Sects, nor leaves out some Part of the World; but as he tasted Death for every man, and was an Offering for the Sins of the whole World, so he sent his Disciples, which he ordained to preach the Gospel, into all Nations; and he saith, *Lo I am with you always, even to the End of the world*; and Christ sayes, *If you were of the World, the World would love its own, but because you are not of the World, but I have chosen you out of the World, therefore the World hates you*: So these were the chosen Disciples of Christ, which he sent forth into the World, *Joh.* 15. And Christ saith, *I have given them the Words which thou gavest me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, they have believed that thou didst send me*, Joh. 17. *and the Glory thou gavest me, I have given them, and that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them, and they in me, that they may be made perfect in one.*

So here you may see, that Christ is in his Apostles, that he sends forth into all Nations, and he will send them his Comforter, which shall lead them into all Truth, who is the Spirit of Truth, and this Comforter will teach you all things, saith Christ, and bring all things to your Remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you, *Joh.* 13. And further Christ saith, Joh. 25. *I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth Fruit, and that your Fruits should remain, &c.*

So here you may see how Christ chose and ordained his ministers, and how he would be with them, and in them, and how he had chosen them

out

out of the World, and they were not of the World, as he was not of the World, and therefore the World did hate these that were chosen & ordained, and sent forth by Christ, and were not like a Company of Worldlings, seeking for great fat Benefices and to agree with Nations or Countries for so much a Year, and to hale People into Courts, and cast them into Prison, if they would not give them maintenance or earthly things.

And when Christ sent forth his seventy Disciples by two and two into every City, and Town, and Place, as in *Luke* 10. he said to them, *Go your Wayes, behold, I send you forth as Lambs among Wolves* (so here is Christ's Sending and Command) *carry neither Purse, nor Scrip, nor Shoes, and salute no Man by the Way, and into what House ye enter, first say, Peace be unto this House, &c. and in the same House remain eating and drinking such Things as they set before you; for the Workman is worthy of his Meat, &c. and into what City ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as they set before you*: And when those seventy returned again to Christ, &c. in the same Hour Jesus rejoyced in Spirit and said, *I thank thee O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that thou hast hid these Things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto Babes, even so Father, &c. And no Man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father, and who the Father is, but the Son, and him to whom the Son will reveal him*: And Jesus said privily to his Disciples, *Blessed are the Eyes which see these Things.*

So here you may see how Christ sent forth his seventy Disciples, and how he thanked his Father, which

which had reveal'd him & these things unto Babes; and how the Son had revealed these things unto his Disciples; so these did Christ chuse and ordain, and they went forth in the Revelation of the Son: And likewise, when Christ had sent forth his twelve Disciples before, he said to them, *As ye go, preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand, &c. and freely you have received, freely give, provide neither Gold, nor Silver, nor Brass in your Purses, no Scrips for your Journey, nor Staffs, nor two Coats, nor Shoes for your Journey, &c. and into whatsoever City or Town ye shall enter, enquire who is worthy, and there abide till ye go thence, &c. And whosoever will not receive you, nor hear your Words, when you depart out of that House or City, shake off the Dust of your Feet, &c.* So these were not to agree for a Benefice with the Heads of the Town, and if they would not pay them, then cast them into Prison.

And also ye may see the same Ordination and sending forth of Christ's ministers in *Mark 6.* and mark, whosoever would not hear Christ's Apostles and Disciples Preaching, they were to shake the Dust off their Feet against them, they were not to summon them to Courts, and cast them into Prison, because they would not hear them; for sayes Christ, *He that heareth you, heareth me, and he that despiseth you, despiseth me, and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me*, Luke 10. And Christ saith in *Luke* 22. 35. unto his Disciples, *when I sent you without Purse, Scrip and Shoes, lacked you any Thing?* and they said *Nay.*

Now you may plainly see here Christ's ministers,

ſters, both before he was crucified and after, when he was riſen, the manner of Chriſt's ordaining and chooſing and ſending forth his miniſters; and before he was crucified, he ask'd his miniſters that he did ſend forth freely, whether they lacked for any thing, and their Anſwer was to Chriſt, they wanted nothing.

Now try your ſelves you miniſters in our Dayes by Chriſt's Words and his miniſters then, who are ſent forth in the Wills of men, whether ye can give the ſame Anſwer, that ye want for nothing, and that you go forth freely, as they did? And Chriſt ſaith, *I will be with you, and I will be within you*; now they that follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion, they muſt be in the ſame Power and Holy Ghoſt that the Apoſtles were in, and not to ſucceed them in the Form, as the falſe Prophets did the true, and Anti-chriſt doth the true Chriſt, who got the true Chriſt's Words; but to ſucceed the Apoſtles in the ſame Holy Ghoſt, and Power, and Life that they were in, that is the right Succeſſion, and ſo in their Inheritance and poſſeſſion; for any worldly man will tell you, it ſignifies nothing to have only the Writings of an Eſtate, and not to poſſeſs it: And therefore to ſucceed the Apoſtles aright, is to ſucceed them in the ſame power and holy Ghoſt they were in, and to have Chriſt with them and in them; for Chriſt ſaith, *Matth.* 21. 16. *Out of the Mouthes of Babes and Sucklings haſt thou ordained Strength*; and *Pſal.* 8.

So you may ſee here how Chriſt ordained Babes and Sucklings to preach his Name freely, as they had

had received freely; and you know the Babes and Sucklings are not fit to be ſent to Schools, but theſe were taught of Chriſt, and ordained of him to ſpeak and to confeſs Chriſt Jeſus freely, as they had received; and he ordain'd Strength out of the mouthes of theſe Babes and Sucklings; yea, ſuch Strength, as the Devil, nor all his miniſters, nor all the profeſſors of the World were able to gainſay, but it convinced the Gainſayers; ſo they need not lye at Schools many Years, whom Chriſt ordains and ſends forth: And when they choſe another Diſciple in the room of *Judas*, to be a Witneſs with the Apoſtles of Chriſt's Reſurrection, the Lord gave them *Matthias* by Lot; ſee *Acts* 1. And the Apoſtle *Paul* ſaith in *Epheſ.* 3. 7. *How that by Revelation he had made known to him the Myſtery whereof he was made a Miniſter, according to the Gift of Grace of God given to him by the effectual working of his Power.* And again the Apoſtle ſaith, *That the Goſpel which was preached to every Creature under Heaven, whereof I Paul am made a Miniſter, according to the Diſpenſation of God, which was given unto me, which hath been hid from Ages and Generations, but now is manifeſted to his Saints, &c. which Myſtery is Chriſt in you, the Hope of Glory, whom we preach* (to wit, the Apoſtles and miniſters of Chriſt) *warning every man, and teaching every Man in all Wiſdom, that we may preſent every man perfect in Chriſt Jeſus.*

Here you may ſee *Paul*'s Ordination, and how he and the Apoſtles received their miniſtry, and what he preach'd, *Col.* 18. And again the Apoſtle ſaith, *When Chriſt aſcended up on high, he led Captivity captive,*

tive, and gave Gifts unto Men, and he gave ſome Apoſtles, ſome Prophets, ſome Evangeliſts and ſome Paſtors, and Teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the Work of the Miniſtry, for the edifying of the Body of Chriſt: So this Gift of Chriſt made them miniſters and you that deny perfection, deny the Work of Chriſt's miniſters, as you may ſee *Epheſ.* 4. And the Apoſtle ſayes, *we ſpeak the Wiſdom of God in a Myſtery, even the hidden Wiſdom of God, ordained before the World to our Glory*: So here you may ſee what he preached, 1 *Cor.* 2. 6. And in *Gal.* 1. Paul *an Apoſtle, not of man, nor by man, but by Jeſus Chriſt, and God the Father, who raiſed him from the Dead. I certifie you Brethren, that the Goſpel which is preached, by me, is not after man; for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the Revelation of Jeſus Chriſt.*

So here you may ſee how the Apoſtle was ordained, and from whom he received his Goſpel and what he preach'd, and how that he was an Apoſtle, not of man nor by man: and the Goſpel which he preached was not after man; and the Apoſtle ſaith in *Acts* 10. 42. *he hath commanded us* (to wit Chriſt) *to preach unto the people, and to teſtifie that it was he, which was ordained of God to be the Judge of Quick & Dead*: Here you may ſee it was Chriſt that commanded his miniſters and his Diſciples to preach; and in *Mark* 3. He ordained twelve that they ſhould be with him that he might ſend them forth to preach; mark, here is Chriſt's Ordination and his ſending forth.

So all along you may ſee how Chriſt ordained

his miniſters and Diſciples, and the ſeventy, and his Paſtors, Prophets, Evangeliſts and Teachers, and he will be with them to the End of the VVorld, and he will be in them, and they ſhall be in him, and they ſhall have his holy Ghoſt to lead them into all Truth.

Now here is a Poſſeſſion, and they that do ſucceed them in the Poſſeſſion muſt be ſuch as poſſeſs Chriſt in them, and his holy Ghoſt, and the ſame Power and Spirit that the Apoſtles did poſſeſs; they muſt poſſeſs the ſame VViſdom which was ordained before the World was, and the ſame myſtery hid from Ages and Generations, and the ſame Gift from him that is aſcended up on high, and the ſame Goſpel which is not after man, neither is it received of man nor by man; this they muſt poſſeſs if they be the Succeſſors of the Apoſtles; for any falſe Prophet or Apoſtle, or meſſenger of Satan, Antichriſt or Wolves may get the Sheeps Cloathing, the outſide, the Form of Godlineſs and deny the Power thereof, ſuch are not the Succeſſors of the Apoſtles in their Inheritance and Poſſeſſion.

Now the Apoſtles in this Poſſeſsion they that did ſucceed them in it were called Elders, and they ordained Decrees by the holy Ghoſt, as in *Acts* 16. to the Churches that were eſtabliſhed in the Faith: & they ordained Elders in every Church, they that were in the Poſſeſſion of the holy Ghoſt, ordained others that were in the holy Ghoſt. *Acts* 14. & 20. Take heed therefore unto your ſelves, and unto all the Flock of God, over which the holy Ghoſt hath made you Overſeers, to feed the Church of God

which

which he hath purchaſed with his own Blood; mark here you may ſee the Ordination of Overſeers or Elders, and what they were to overſee withal and feed withal, the holy Ghoſt.

Now they that do ſucceed them in their Elderſhip or Overſight, their Succeſſion muſt be in the Poſſeſſion of the ſame holy Ghoſt, elſe they are no Succeſſors of the Apoſtles, nor the Elders, nor Overſeers; but are in the Form of Godlineſs without the Power thereof, which are to be turned away from: And in 1 *Pet.* 5. He that is an Elder writes to the Elders, who was a Witneſs of the Sufferings of Chriſt, and alſo a Partaker of the Glory that ſhould be revealed: *Feed the Flock of God* (ſaith he) *which is amongſt you, take the Overſight thereof, not by conſtraint but willingly, not for filthy Lucre but of a ready Mind; neither as Lords over God's Heritage; but being Examples to the Flock.* Now here you may ſee further of the Ordination of Elders, and the Counſel of an Elder to them that were Partakers of the Glory, and Witneſſes of the Sufferings of Chriſt, they ſhould feed and take the Overſight willingly and not for filthy Lucre, not being Lords over God's Heritage, but Examples to the Flock. Now they that are as Lords, and are ill Examples, and will be overſeers for filthy Lucre, are not Succeeders of the Apoſtles, neither in their Poſſeſſion, nor Example, nor Command.

So all they that ſay they have not the ſame Power, and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles had, do not ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Poſſeſſion, and all they who deny, that any People ſhould expect the ſame

Power and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles had, deny their Poſſeſſion, and are no Succeeders of them: And all they that deny the Light that ſhines in the Heart to give them the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Chriſt Jeſus now adayes in People, and all they that deny the Anointing within to teach, and the Word of God in the Heart and mouth to obey and do, which was the Word of Faith the Apoſtle preached, they are not in the Succeſſion of the Apoſtles, nor in the Doctrine tha they preached, nor in the Poſſeſſion and Practicet they lived in.

And all they that deny that there was not an Offering for the Sins of the whole World, and that he doth not enlighten every man that cometh into the World, with the Light, which is the Life in the Word, and forbid People from believing in this Light, and ſay, that God doth not write his Law in Peoples hearts now, nor put it into their minds now; all ſuch, I ſay, do not follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion of their Life and Power they were in, for they have denyed their Doctrine, and that which all good Chriſtians do poſſeſs.

And all ſuch as ſay, that the Grace of God hath not appeared to all men to teach them, and bring their Salvation and that the manifeſtation of the Spirit is not given to every man to profit withall, and that God doth not give his holy Ghoſt to them that rebelled againſt it, and that Chriſt hath not ſent his holy Ghoſt to lead his miniſters now into all Truth, which holy Ghoſt ſhall reprove the World of Sin, &c. they that deny this are not the Succeſſors of the Apoſtles, in their Poſſeſſion of their

heir Life and Power in the holy Ghoſt; but are denyers of their Doctrine, though they may geta Form of Words, but deny the Power thereof; ſuch are to be turned away from.

So you may ſee how Chriſt hath ordained his miniſters; for he himſelf was made after the order of *Melchizedeck*, and not after the Order of *Aaron* (though *Aaron* was made after an Order) and ſo they were ordained to offer Sacrifices, as in *Heb.* 7. 8. which Prieſthood Chriſt hath ended, and their Order, who ordained his Diſciples and Elders as you may ſee before: and all that do ſucceed them muſt be in the ſame Grace, in the ſame Light and holy Ghoſt, and Power, and the ſame Law of Life, and of the Spirit, and the ſame Anointing within, and the ſame Word of Faith in the Heart and mouth, and the ſame Gift from Chriſt that is aſcended up on high, and Chriſt within according to his Promiſe, that he would dwell in them, and as the Apoſtle ſaith, *It pleaſed the Father to reveal his Son in me*, and ſo he preached him in others: and all Apoſtles, Paſtors, Evangeliſts, Teachers, Elders, Overſeers, &c. that do not follow the Apoſtles in the Poſſeſſion of this before mentioned, and are not Inheritors of this, then they muſt needs be Apoſtates, and do not follow the Apoſtles in the Poſſeſſion and Practice, though they may get the Form and not in the ſame Power, but deny it; they are not the Succeeders of the Apoſtles; but are to be turned away from; for none do ſucceed the Apoſtles, Evangeliſts, and Paſtors, Elders, Overſeers, and Teachers, but who ſucceed them in Chriſt, and in the ſame Power and holy Ghoſt that they were in,

who

who gave forth the Scriptures: And in *Acts* 19. 13. then certaine of the vagabond *Jews* Exorciſts, took upon them to call over them which had evil Spirits in the Name of the Lord Jeſus, ſaying, *we adjure you by Jeſus whom Paul preacheth,* and there were ſeven Sons of one *Sceva* a Jew and chief of the Prieſts, which did ſo, and the evil Spirit anſwered and ſaid, *Jeſus I know, and Paul I know, but who are yee? And the man in whom the evil Spirit was, leaped on them and overcame them, and prevailed againſt them ſo that they fled out of the Houſe, naked and wounded, and this was known to all the* Jews *and* Greeks *alſo dwelling at* Epheſus. *and Fear fell on them all and the Name of the Lord Ieſus was magnified, &c.*

Now it is clear that thoſe did not ſucceed in the Ordination of the Apoſtles, in the Poſſeſſion of their Power, Life and holy Ghoſt, though they had the Form of Words, and uſed the Name of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt: And you may clearly ſee, that it is not the ſaying the Form of Chriſt's and the Apoſtles words, and ſuch as can hold them in their memories, that doth not bring them to ſucceed the Apoſtles, and ſo to plead their Ordination, becauſe they can ſpeak Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words, this doth not prove their Succeſſion in the Ordination of Chriſt nor the Apoſtles; for it ſayes, they fled away naked, they wanted the Power and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in: and ſo are not all naked though they have the Form of Chriſt's and the Apoſtles words, as theſe were? Let them be Prieſts or Profeſſors, if they be not in the ſame holy Ghoſt, and Power the Apoſtles were in; they are naked.

And may not this be an Example to all Chriſtendom

ſtendom to take heed how they uſe the Form of Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words, without they be in the ſame Fear of God, and Power, and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in: So its clear, none do ſucceed the Apoſtles in the ſame Ordination and Succeſſion, but ſuch as do ſucceed them in the ſame Power and holy Ghoſt, the Apoſtles were in; for can naked men, with the Form of Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words, convert any men or women to Chriſt or God? that be not in the ſame Power and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in, which Power cloathes them: And are not all naked men liable to be wounded by the evil Spirit? and flee from the evil wounded, like theſe Prieſts Sons, that are not in the ſame Power and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in: and therefore is not this a fearfull warning to all Chriſtendom, to take heed how they take upon them, or uſe any way the Form of Chriſt's or the Apoſtles Words, without being in the ſame Life and Power, and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in, leſt the evil Spirit get power over them, as it did over this Prieſt and his ſeven Sons.

And are not all Vagabonds from the Apoſtles power and Inheritance, that are not in the ſame power and holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in, though they may talk and have the Form of Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words, as common Vagabonds and Wanderers may talk of other mens Poſſeſſions: and did *Simon Magus* continue in the Succeſſion of the Apoſtles, though he was convinced? And did not he go out of the Succeſſion of the Apoſtles, when he thought the Gift of God was to be purchaſed

with

with money? did not *Peter* tell him, he was in the Gall of Bitterneſs, and Bond of Iniquity, though he was a profeſſor of Chriſt, and a Believer as many are now? ſo you may ſee, that he did not ſucceed the Apoſtles in the Life, and holy Ghoſt, and Power, and you may clearly ſee the Succeſſion to the Apoſtles is in the Life, and Power, and holy Ghoſt that they were in.

And do not you think that there are many *Simon Magus* now adayes, in Chriſtendom, in their Gall of Bitterneſs, and Bond of Iniquity, that think the Gift of God can be bought and ſold for money? And are there not many now adayes, that do buy and ſell the Goſpel, as they call it, to people for money? And you cannot ſay, that theſe ſucceed the Apoſtles in their poſſeſſion in the Life and power; but *Simon Magus* in his Gall of Bitterneſs and Bond of Iniquity.

And do you think, *Diotrephes*, that *John* reproves followed the Apoſtle with his prating, in the poſſeſſion, and in the Succeſſion of the power and holy Ghoſt as in the third Epiſtle of *John*.

And the Apoſtle ſaith 1 *Cor.* 4. 19. *But I will come to you ſhortly, if the Lord will, and we will know not the Speech of them that are puft up; but the Power; for the Kingdom of God is not in Word, but in Power*: So here it is clear, the Knowledge, Ordination, and Succeſſion muſt be in the Power, and they that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, in their poſſeſſion and Ordination in the Goſpel, which is the power of God, they muſt be in the ſame Power of God, the Goſpel, which brings Life and Immortality to Light,

Light; for all that have the Form of Godlineſs and deny the Power thereof, deny the Goſpel, for the Goſpel is the power of God: So they muſt ſucceed them in the poſſeſſion of this power that brings Life and Immortality to Light, that ſhines over the Devil, that hath darkened them; for the Goſpel, the Power of God, is called the everlaſting Goſpel, and therefore the Succeſſion muſt be in the everlaſting Goſpel, and Power of God; and therefore to ſucceed them in the Form without the Power and holy Ghoſt is no Succeſſion to the Apoſtles in their Ordination; but a Succeſſion of the falſe Apoſtles, that got the Form and denyed the Power, from ſuch ſaith the Apoſtle (that was in the Succeſſion of the Life and Power and Ordination by Chriſt) turn away from ſuch: And the Apoſtle ſaith 1 *Cor.* 18. *For the preaching of the Croſs* (to wit, of Chriſt) *is to them that periſh Fooliſhneſs; but unto us which are ſaved* (to wit, the true Apoſtles and Chriſtians) *it is the Power of God.*

Now they that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, and true Chriſtians in the Croſs of Chriſt, it is in the Power of God that crucifies them from the World: it is not to ſucceed the Apoſtles with wooden, ſtone ſilver or braſs Croſſes; for theſe would have been fooliſh Things to the Apoſtles; for you cannot ſay, that you ſucceed the Apoſtles with your wooden, ſtone, braſs and ſilver Croſs, except you ſay theſe your own Inventions of Stone, Wood, Braſs, and other ſuch like made outward Croſſes are the Power of God.

And the Apoſtle ſaith, we ſpeak the Wiſdom

God in a Myſtery, which Wiſdom we ſpeak among them that are perfect; yet not the Wiſdom of this World nor of the Princes of this World, which cometh to nought: So all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſſion, it muſt be in this Wiſdom of God, which is pure and gentle from above, and eaſie to be intreated, it muſt be in the Poſſeſſion of this Wiſdom (which will abide and not come to naught) which they ſpoak amongſt them that were perfect: And it is not to ſucceed the Apoſtles, to get Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words to talk of them in Man's Wiſdom that comes to naught: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *my Speech was not with enticing Words of Man's Wiſdom; but in the Demonſtration of the Spirit, and of Power.*

And now all Preachers that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, it muſt be in the ſame Demonſtration of the Spirit and Power, for they do not ſucceed the Apoſtles, whoſe Speech and Preaching is only with the enticing Words of mans Wiſdom: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *That your Faith ſhould not ſtand in the Wiſdom of men, but in the Power of God:* So whoſe Faith doth ſtand in the Wiſdom of men, and not in the ſame Power and Wiſdom of God the Apoſtles were in, do not ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſſion: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *God hath revealed unto us by his Spirit the deep Things of God, and we have not received the Spirit of the World, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God* (mark, Freely) *which things alſo we ſpeak, not in the Words which man's wiſ-*

Wiſdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghoſt teacheth, &c. and ſaith he, *we have the Mind of Chriſt.*

So now all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, muſt be in the Spirit of God that reveals the deep things of God to them, and by which Spirit they know the deep Things of God, given forth freely unto them, that they may give them forth freely again to others, according to the Ordination and Command of Chriſt; and they muſt ſucceed them in the ſame Speech, not to ſpeak the things of God in the Words which man's Wiſdom doth teach, but in thoſe Words which the Holy Ghoſt doth teach: And now they that ſpeak the Words of Chriſt and the Apoſtles in man's Wiſdom, and not freely, and have not the Mind of Chriſt, and deny the Spirit of Revelation, but ſpeak the Apoſtles Words by the Spirit of the World, that knows not the Things of God, ſuch do not follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion of the Spirit of God, nor in their Ordination by the Spirit of God: And likewiſe all ſuch that teach for filthy Lucre, *and ſerve not the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, but their own Bellies*, and are covetous Teachers, and are *heady, high-minded, Lovers of Pleaſures more then Lovers of God, and are Strikers, and Perſecutors, and think that Gain is Godlineſs*, all ſuch do not follow the *Apoſtles* in their Succeſſion and Ordination; for the *Apoſtles* declared againſt ſuch, who freely as they had received, freely they were commanded to give, and did ſo; and them that follow not the Apoſtles in this their Example, and Chriſt in his Command, are not Followers and Succeeders to Chriſt and the Apoſtles, in the ſame

Life, Power and Doctrine: Now for the Tryal of Bishops and Deacons, that follow the Apostles in their Succession; *A Bishop must be blameless, the Husband of one Wife, vigilant, sober, of good Behaviour, given to Hospitality, apt to teach, not given to Wine, no Striker, not greedy of filthy Lucre, but patient, not a Brawler, not covetous, one that can rule well his own House, having his Children in Subjection with all Gravity, not a Novice, lest he be lifted up with Pride, and fall into Condemnation of the Devil: Moreover, he must have a good Report of them that are without lest he fall into Reproach, and the Snare of the Devil,* 1 Tim. 3. And in *Tit.* 1. *A Bishop must be blameless, as the Steward of God, not self-willed, nor soon angry, not given to Wine, no Striker, not given to filthy Lucre; but a Lover of Hospitality, a Lover of good Men sober, just, holy temperate, holding fast the Faithful word, &c. for there are many unruly and vain Talkers, &c.*

Now here you may see the Ordination of Bishops; and if they do not succeed in these Steps and Precepts as the Apostles have laid down, they do not succeed the Apostles; for if he be of *ill Behaviour, not given to Hospitality, nor apt to teach freely* (as they did) *and if he be given to Wine, and a Striker, and greedy of filthy Lucre, and not patient, but a Brawler, and Covetous, and not the Husband of one Wife, and cannot rule his own House well, and hath not his Children in Subjection and in Gravity, and is a Novice, and puft up in Pride, and hath an ill Report from them without, and self-willed, and soon angry, not sober, just, holy and temperate, &c.* Such follow not nor succeed not the Apostles in their Ordination and Succession, nor in

their

their Life and Power of the holy Ghoſt, but were reproved by them: Now likewiſe concerning Deacons, *if they be not grave, and if they be double-tongued, or given to much Wine, or if greedy of filthy Lucre, if their Wives be not grave and ſober, but ſlanderous*, they are ſuch as do not follow the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſsion; therefore the Apoſtle ſayes, *Firſt they muſt be proved, and then let them uſe their Office of a Deacon, &c. being found blameleſs*: And likewiſe the Apoſtle ſaith, they muſt hold the Myſtery of Faith in a pure Conſcience; mark, in a pure Conſcience; and Faith is a Myſtery; and therefore all ſuch that are not qualified according to the Apoſtle's Direction to *Timothy* and *Titus*, do not follow and ſucceed the Apoſtles in their ſpiritual Succeſsion and Ordination: And moreover, the Apoſtle ſaith, *Follow us as we follow Chriſt, and walk as ye have us for an Example*; and they coveted no man's Gold, nor Silver, nor Apparel, and ſaid, *Although he preached the Goſpel, yet he had nothing to glory of; and what is my Reward?* (ſayes he) *verily, that when I preach the Goſpel, that I make the Goſpel of Chriſt without Charge*, 1 Cor. 9.

And now you that do not follow the Apoſtle in theſe Things, both in Example and Life, and to keep the Goſpel without Charge, you do not follow the Apoſtles in the ſpiritual Succeſsion and Ordination, neither are you to be followed, but as you follow Chriſt, and the Example of the Apoſtles.

And all ſuch that forbid to marry, and command to abſtain from Meats, ſuch are not the Succeſſeders

ceeders of the Apoſtles in their Ordination, and Poſſeſſion of the Heavenly Power and Spirit; but ſuch are Speakers of Lyes, and are ſuch as are departed from the Faith, giving Heed to ſeducing Spirits, and Doctrine of Devils ſpeaking Lyes in Hypocriſie, having their Conſciences ſeared, as with an Hot Iron, 1 *Tim.* 4. And in *Rom.* 8. *If the Spirit of him that raiſed up Jeſus from the dead dweleth in you, he that raiſed up Jeſus ſhall quicken your mortal Bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you: For as many as are lead by the Spirit of God are the Sons of God; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry* Abba *Father, which Spirit it ſelf beareth witneſs with our Spirits, that we are the Children of God; for the Law of the Spirit of Life in Chriſt Jeſus hath made me free from the Law of Sin and Death,* ſaith the Apoſtle.

Now here was the Poſſeſſion of the Apoſtles, and all true Chriſtians, and all that follow them in their Succeſſion, and heavenly Poſſeſſion, muſt be led by the Spirit of God, and to have the ſame Spirit to bear witneſs with their Spirits, that they are the Sons of God; yea the ſame Spirit that raiſed up Jeſus from the dead, to dwell in them, and to quicken their mortall Bodies: So the Succeſſion muſt be in this ſame Spirit, and in the Law of the Spirit of Life in Chriſt Jeſus, which makes free from the Law of Sin and Death, and then there will be the Fruits of the Spirit to ſhew forth their Succeſſion to the Apoſtles, that they do ſucceed them in the ſame Spirit, in the Law of the Spirit of Life that is in Chriſt Jeſus, that doth make

make them free Men and Women from the Law of Sin and Death: So all the Succeeders of the Apoſtles in the Spirit can cry *Abba* Father. And the Apoſtle ſaith in *Rom.* 10. *How ſhall he preach except he be ſent? &c. And the Word is nigh thee in the Heart and Mouth, and this is the Word of Faith which we preach,* which were ſent (to wit, the Apoſtles) to preach it.

So all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, they muſt be ſent of Chriſt in the ſame Power and Spirit, that the Apoſtles were ſent from God and Chriſt, and freely give as they have received from him freely, and preach the ſame Word of Faith, which is nigh in Men and Women, even in their Mouthes and Hearts to obey it and do it; for if People go not in the ſame Power and Spirit as the Apoſtles were in, and preach the ſame, they are not ſucceeders of them in their Poſſiſſeon. Now Chriſt ſaid, *I am come in my Father's Name and you received me not; if another ſhall come in his own Name, him you will receive, John* 5.

And now is it not clearly ſeen to this Day, that the Prophets and Apoſtles, that came in the Name of the Lord and of Chriſt, ſuch were alwayes hated; and they would not receive them: And by ſad Experience we have found it in our Age, who have been moved by the Lord, and gone in the Name of the Lord to ſpeak to Prieſts and Profeſſors, many of which you have impriſoned and beat; but if any have come in their own Name, ſuch are received by you.

And if *Paul* had been an Apoſtle by Men, or of

Men

Men, or had received his Goſpel and Ordination by Men or from Men, Men would not have called him *a Ring-leader, and a peſtilent Fellow, &c.* And the Apoſtle ſaid, *they were able Miniſters of the new Teſtament, not of the Letter, but of the Spirit; for the Letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth Life.* So all that follow the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſſion, muſt be Miniſters of the Spirit and of the new Teſtament, yea of the Spirit that giveth Life, and not of the Letter that killeth: Now they that are Miniſters, but not of the ſame Spirit that giveth Life, and of the new Teſtament that the Apoſtles were in, do not follow them in their Ordination and Succeſſion, though they may have the Letter. And the Apoſtle ſaith, *We all with open Face, beholding as in a Glaſs the Glory of the Lord, are changed into the ſame Image from Glory to Glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord,* 2 *Cor.* 3. 13. *And we having the ſame Spirit of Faith, &c.*

Now here was the Apoſtles Poſſeſſion, and all that follow them in their Poſſeſiſon, Ordination, and Succeſiſon, muſt behold the ſame Glory as they all did, and know the ſame changing from Glory to Glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord, and they muſt be in the ſame Spirit of Faith, elſe they do not follow the Apoſtles, and true Chriſtians in their Ordination and Succeſsion. And the Apoſtles ſaith, 2 *Cor.* 6. *In all things approving our ſelves as the Miniſters of God, in much Patience in Afflictions, in Neceſſities, in Diſtreſſes, in Stripes, in Impriſonments, in Tumults, in Labours, in Watchings, in Faſtings, by Pureneſs, by Knowledge, by Long-Suffering, by Kind-*

Kindneſs, by the holy Ghoſt, by Love unfeign'd, by the Word of Truth, by the Power of God, by the Arm of Righteouſneſs, &c. Now all you that follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion, you muſt approve your ſelves as the Miniſters of Chriſt, by your Patience, by your Pureneſs, by your Long-Suffering, by Knowledge, by Kindneſs, by Love unfeigned, by the Word of Truth, by the Power of God, by the Arm of Righteouſneſs, and by the Holy Ghoſt: But now if you ſay, you have not the ſame holy Ghoſt as the Apoſtles had, then you cannot approve your ſelves, neither can you follow them in the ſame Ordination and Succeſſion as the Apoſtles were in: And you that be the Strikers, and Impriſoners, and Afflicters of People for Religion, you do not follow the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſſion that were ſtript, imprifoned and afflicted.

And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Ye are the Temples of the Living God; as God hath ſaid, I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God and they ſhall be my People, and I will be a Father unto you and you ſhall be my Sons and Daughters, ſaith the Lord God Almighty:* Now here was the Poſſeſſion of the Apoſtles and true Church: Now all that follow the Apoſtles in their Ordination, and Succeſſion, and Poſſeſſion in the true Chuch, they muſt follow them in their Sonſhip and Daughterſhip, and muſt be ſuch as God dwels in, and walks in, if not, and they will not have him to dwell in them and walk in them, and ſo be the Sons and Daughters of God, then they do not ſucceed the Apoſtles and true Church in their Poſſeſſion: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Gal. 3. For ye*

are all the Children of God by Faith in Christ Jesus; for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: So all that follow the Apostles and the true Church in their Succession, must be in the same Light, and Power, and Faith in Jesus Christ, which Jesus Christ hath been the Author of, and all must look to him for it, and so all Children of God in this Faith, that brings them to have access to God, and Victory over that which separates from God.

So all must succeed in this one Faith, and they that are baptized into Christ, must put him on; not make a Profession of him without them, and not put him on; if they do, they do not follow the Apostle, and the true Church, in their Succession.

And the Apostle saith, *Gal.* 4 *Because ye are Sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your Hearts, crying Abba Father:* mark, into your Hearts: Now all that do succeed the Apostle and true Church here, it must be in the same Power and Spirit; they were in, that they may cry *Abba* Father: And the Apostle in *Gal.* 5. saith, *walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the Lusts of the Flesh:* and again he saith, *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*; mark, us the Apostles and the true Church, the true Christians: Now if ye do not walk in the same Spirit as the Apostles and true Church were in, then ye do not succeed the Apostles and true Church in their Succession, and Ordination, & Possession that they were in; but do fulfil the Lusts of your Flesh: Now the Apostle saith, *The Fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Meekness, Long-suffering,*

Tem-

Temperance, &c. against which there is no Law, &c. Now if you do not walk in the Spirit, you do not succeed the Apoſtles in their Ordination by the Spirit, neither do you ſucceed them in the Fruits of the Spirit; but are in the Fruits of the Fleſh Adultery, Fornication, Uncleanneſs, Laciviouſneſs, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Variance, Emulation, Wrath, Strife, Sedition, Hereſie, Envyings, Murders, Drunkenneſs, Revilings, and ſuch like. And the Apoſtle tells you plainly, that they that do ſuch things ſhall not inherit the Kingdom of God, and therefore, look all Chriſtendom at your Fruits, and ſee whom you do ſucceed: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Gal. 6. For he that ſoweth to the Fleſh ſhall of the Fleſh reap Corruption; but he that ſoweth to the Spirit ſhall of the Spirit reap Life Everlaſting.*

Now no Man can ſow to the Spirit; but ſuch as be in the ſame Spirit of God and Chriſt, that the Apoſtles were in, and they that be not in the ſame Spirit, that they were in, are not their Succeeding Seeds-Men in their Ordination by the holy Ghoſt, then ſuch ſow to the Fleſh, and of the Fleſh they reap Corruptions, and not everlaſting Life; mark this all you Seeds-men what a Crop you may reap of Corruptions, that are ſown to the Fleſh, who have not ſown in the ſame Power and holy Spirit as the Apoſtles ſowed withal, and to: And the Apoſtle ſpeaking to the *Epheſians* of his Knowledge in the Myſtery of Chriſt, which in other ages was not made known unto the Sons of Men, as it is now reavaled unto his holy Apoſtles and Prophets by the Spirit: Now you that do not ſucceed the Apo

ſtles in this Spirit of revelation, you do not know the Myſtery of Chriſt as the holy Prophets and Apoſtles did, though you may have the Form: And the Apoſtle ſaith in *Epheſ.* 2. 18. *For through him we both have an acceſs by one Spirit to the Father, and in whom ye alſo are built together an Habitation for God, through the Spirit.*

So all you that do follow the Apoſtles and the true Church in their Succeſſion, it muſt be in the ſame Spirit of Interceſſion, that gives acceſs to the Father, and by the ſame Spirit built together for an Habitation of God.

And all you that deny having the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles had, how can you be built together an Habitation for God, or have acceſs to the Father: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Finally, my Brethren be ſtrong in the Lord and in the Power of his Might; put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to ſtand againſt the Wiles of the Devil; for we wreſtle not againſt Fleſh and Blood, but againſt Principalities and Rulers of Darkneſs, &c. And take unto you the Helmet of Salvation, and Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.* And now mark, they that follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion and Ordination in the true Church, they muſt be in the ſame *Power and Might*, and the ſame *Helmet of Salvation*, and *Shield of Faith*, and their *Feet muſt be ſhod with the ſame Goſpel of Peace*, and their *Loins muſt be girded with the ſame Girdle of Truth*, and the ſame *Breaſtplate of Righteouſneſs*, and they muſt have the ſame *Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God*, with

with which they must not *wrestle with Flesh and Blood, but spiritual Wickedness, &c.*

Now you that are not in the same Power of the same Spirit, nor the same Faith, Truth, Righteousness, Gospel, Salvation and Armour of God, you are not the Successors of the Apostles in their Weapons, in their armour, in their Wrestling, who wrestle with Flesh and Blood, neither are you able to stand against the Wiles of Satan: And the Apostle saith, 2 *Cor.* 10. 4. *We do not war after the Flesh; for the Weapons of our Warfare are not carnal, but spiritual, mighty through God to the plucking down of strong Holds, &c.*

Now all that follow the Apostles in their Succession and Possession and Ordination, their Weapons must not be carnal, and they must not wrestle after the Flesh, if they do, they are no Ministers in the Succession of the Apostles in their War and their Weapons: And the Apostle saith, 1 *Cor.* 12. *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body, whether we be* Jews *or* Gentiles, *whether bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit*; mark, here is the one Baptism, and here is the one Spirit, and here is drinking into one Spirit through several Sorts of People; these followed the Apostles in their Succession; and therefore all that follows the Apostles in their Succession, must be baptized by the same Spirit, as the Apostles and true Church was baptized withal, and drink in the same Spirit; and they that say, they have not the same Spirit the Apostles had, cannot be baptized into the same

ſame Body they were baptized into, neither can they have the ſame Union, in drinking in the ſame Spirit they drunk in, though they may have the Letter, they cannot ſucceed them in their Baptiſm in the Spirit, and drinking in the Spirit, if they have it not, and do not look for it (to wit, the Spirit) now adayes: and the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Tim.* 4. *Be thou an Example of the Believers* IN WORD [mark] IN CONVERSATION [mark] IN CHARITY [mark] IN SPIRIT [mark] IN FAITH *and* PURITY [mark] Now all the Succedeers of *Timothy* and the Apoſtle, muſt be in the ſame Example, in the ſame Word, in the ſame Converſation, Charity, Spirit, Faith and Purity; and they that are not in the ſame Spirit, they cannot be in the ſame Faith, Word, Converſation, Charity and Purity, and then ſuch do not ſucceed the Apoſtles nor *Timothy*: and in 1 *Pet.* 2. *Ye alſo as living Stones are built up a ſpiritual Houſhold* [mark, are built up] *and an Holy Prieſthood, to offer up ſpiritual Sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jeſus Chriſt.* Now all that follow the Apoſtles and the true Church in their Succeſſion and Poſſeſſion of the Spirit, they muſt be the ſpiritual Houſhold and living Stones, offering up ſpiritual Sacrifices acceptable to God by Jeſus Chriſt. And you that ſay, you have not the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles had and the Church in the Primitive Times, you are not the Succeſſors of the Apoſtles, and you cannot be the living Stones, nor ſpiritual Houſe, nor an holy Prieſthood, neither can you offer up ſpiritual Sacrifices

crifices to God, acceptable through Jeſus Chriſt, not being in the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles and true Church were in.

Concerning the Succeſſion in the Fellowſhip.

IF *we ſay* (ſaith the Apoſtle) *that we have fellowſhip with him* (to wit, Chriſt and God) *and walk in Darkneſs, we lye, and do not the Truth; but if we walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, we have fellowſhip one with another, and the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt cleanſeth us from all Sin.*

Now all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles and true Church in the Fellowſhip, it muſt be by walking in the Light, as he is in the Light; and there they ſhall know cleanſing by the Blood of Chriſt; but all ſuch as hate the Light of Chriſt, and call it of the Devil or an Idol, ſuch do not ſucceed the Apoſtles and the true Church, though they may get the Form of Words, and ſay, they have Fellowſhip with him, but walking in the Darkneſs, and hating the Light, the Apoſtle tells you, they lye and do not the Truth, as you may ſee in 1 *John*: and the Apoſtle ſaith, *for your fellowſhip is in the Goſpel*, Epheſ. 1.

So all that follow the Apoſtles and true Church in their Succeſſion, it muſt be in the ſame Goſpel, the Power of God, and not in a Form of Godlineſs, and denying the Power of the Goſpel, that is a denying a Succeſſion in their Fellowſhip: and in another

ther Place he ſpeaks of keeping the Unity of th. Spirit, which is the Bond of Peace: So all that do not follow the Apoſtles and true Church in this Unity of the Spirit, they want the Bond of Peace, yea, the Bond of the Prince of Princes Peace, and they that do follow the Apoſtles and true Church, it muſt be in the ſame Spirit that they were in, and ſo in the ſame Unity and Bond of Peace.

Concerning Singing and Praying in the Spirit in the Succeſſion of the Apoſtles.

THE Apoſtle ſaith, *Epheſ.* 6. 18. *Praying alwayes with all Prayer and Supplication in the Spirit*: Now they muſt be in the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles and true Church were in, if they do ſucceed them in the Spirit of Prayer, or elſe is it not like the *Phariſees* Babling, and ſuch as ask, and receive not? And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Rom.*8. *Likewiſe the Spirit helpeth our Infirmities; for we know not what we ſhould pray for as we ought, but the Spirit it ſelf makes Interceſſion for us, &c.* So all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Prayer, it is not uſing a Company of Words, and making Prayers, but it muſt be in the ſame Spirit which helps the Infirmity, & makes Interceſſion; for without this Spirit the Apoſtles were in, we know not what we ſhould pray for as we ought; ſo therefore the Spirit is the Helper, and makes Interceſſion; and therefore they that have not the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles had, want the Helper

Helper that should make Interceſſion, and are not in the ſucceſsion of the Apoſtles & the true Church. And again the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Cor.* 14. *I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the Underſtanding alſo; I will ſing with the Spirit, and I will ſing with the Underſtanding alſo, when thou bleſſeſt with the Spirit, &c.*

And therefore all that do pray, and ſing, and bleſs, and not in the ſame ſpirit the Apoſtles were in, and the true Church, they are not the ſucceeders of the *Apoſtles* in their ſpiritual praying, ſinging and bleſſing, neither can they pray with the Underſtanding, nor ſing, nor bleſs with the Underſtanding, as the *Apoſtles* and the true Church did, if they be not in the ſame ſpirit they were in that gave forth the ſcriptures. And the *Apoſtle* ſaith, *Let the word of God dwell in you in all Wiſdom, &c. teaching and admoniſhing one another in Pſalms, and Hymns, and ſpiritual Songs, ſinging with Grace in your Hearts to the Lord*, Col. 3.

Now they that do ſucceed the *Apoſtles* in this teaching and admoniſhing in Pſalms, Hymns and ſpiritual ſongs, they muſt ſucceed them in the Word of Chriſt dwelling in their Hearts, and in the ſame ſpirit, and ſame Grace in the Heart that the *Apoſtle* and true Church were in; for they cannot ſucceed them in the Letter, in the Form without the Power, in their Poſſeſsion: And the Apoſtle bids them pray without ceaſing, and quench not the Spirit, and deſpiſe not prophecying: and they that do deſpiſe prophecy, and quench the Spirit, do not follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſsion and Ordina-

tion, and Comfort, and Edification; who say they may all propheſie one by one.

And ſo all that grieves, and quencheth, and vexeth the Spirit of God, and rebelleth againſt his Spirit, and reſiſteth the holy Ghoſt, and hates the Light of Chriſt, doth not follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion & Poſſeſion: And the Apoſtle ſaith, *But ye beloved, build up your ſelves in your moſt holy Faith, praying in the holy Ghoſt:* So all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles & the true Church in their praying, it muſt be in the holy Ghoſt, and ſucceed them in their building, it muſt be in their holy Faith, which Chriſt is the Author of, & they that are not in the ſame holy Ghoſt and Faith, do not ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Building, and in their Praying: And the Apoſtle ſaith in 1 *Theſ.* 2. 10. *Ye are witneſſes and God alſo how holily, and juſtly, and unblameably we behaved our ſelves among you that believe*: ſo they that do ſucceed the Apoſtles, muſt ſucceed them, in that holy and juſt, and unblameable Life: and Chriſt ſaith in *John* 1. *They that worſhip the Father muſt worſhip him in Spirit and Truth:* Now none can ſucceed the Apoſtles in this Worſhip that Chriſt ſet up above ſixteen hundred Years ſince; but who are in the ſame Spirit and Truth the Devil is out off, that the Apoſtles were in: and ſo it is clear; all that do ſucceed the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion and Ordination, and Poſſeſſion, it muſt be in the ſame Power and Spirit: And ſaith the Lord, *I have ordained thee a Prophet to the Nations, before I formed thee in the Belly I knew thee. Jer.* 15. And a Multitude of the like Things concerning the Succeſſion

of

of the Apoſtles, and the true Church, of Sanctification, Juſtification, and Perfection and the like might be declared, and the Apoſtle ſaith, *He that hath an Ear let him hear what the Spirit ſaith to the Churches*: John ſpeakes this ſeven Times in the *Revelation*; but if People have not the ſame Power and Spirit now adayes as the Apoſtles had, then they cannot hear what the Spirit ſaith. Now the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Cor.* 14. *If any thing be revealed to another that ſits by, let the firſt hold his peace; for you may all propheſie one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted; for the Spirit of the Prophets is ſubject to the Prophets*: Now all that deny Prophecy, and ſpeaking one by one, deny the Way by which the Church may learn, and may be comforted, and deny the ſubjection of the Spirit of the Prophets, and ſuch are not the ſucceeders in the ſame Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in: and the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Cor.* 14. *Except ye utter by the Tongue, Words eaſie to be underſtood, how ſhall it be known what is ſpoken; for ye ſhall ſpeak in the Air, therefore if I know not the Meaning of the Voice, I ſhall be unto him that ſpeaketh a* Barbarian, *and he ſhall be a* Barbarian *unto me.* And therefore all ye that ſpeak, and preach, and pray in an unknown Tongue, or bleſs, the Apoſtle telleth you, ye are *Barbarians*, and ſpeak to the Air, and ſo you do not follow him in his Succeſsion; ſo therefore all that follow the Apoſtles and the true Church, in their Succeſſion, Ordination and poſſeſsion; either in preaching, praying, or ſinging, Fellowſhip, or Worſhip they muſt ſucceed them in the ſame Power and Spirit the Apoſtles were in.

And the Apoſtle ſaith, *Gal. 6. As many deſire to make fair ſhew in the Fleſh*, & in *Rom.* 15. 18. *For I will not dare to ſpeak of thoſe Things, which Chriſt hath not wrought by me, to make the* Gentiles *obedient, by Word and Deed.* Now conſider, do you follow the Apoſtle in this Succeſsion, dare you ſpeak of Things, which Chriſt hath not wrought by you, and to bring People to be obedient by Word or Deed? And is not this to make a fair ſhew in the Fleſh of that which Chriſt hath not wrought by you? then you are not Succeeders to the Apoſtle and true Church: And the Apoſtle ſaith in 2 *Cor.* 10. 15. *Not boaſting of Things without our Meaſure*, that is, of other Mens Labours, &c. *but according to the Meaſure of the Rule, which God hath diſtributed unto us, &c.* Now conſider do any follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſsion; but who follow them in the Rule to wit of the Spirit? And do ſuch follow the Apoſtles in their Rule, that boaſts of other Mens Labours, to wit the Prophets, Chriſt's and the Apoſtles Words, & deny their Rule of the Spirit? & did not the *Corinthians* make a great profeſsion of Chriſt, and look't upon themſelves to be great gifted-men? and did not the Apoſtle tell them, they were Reprobates if Chriſt were not in them, for all they might make a Profeſsion of Chriſt without them? And ſo, is it not needful, for all Chriſtians to try themſelves, whether they be in the Faith, and prove, and know their own ſelves, that Chriſt is in them, except they be Reprobates; and ſo Reprobates may *make* a Profeſsion of Chriſt without them, which do not follow the Apoſtles in their ſucceſsion, who preach'd Chriſt within, the Hope

of

of Glory, who ſaid, *The Life that I now live in the Fleſh, is by the Faith of the Son of God, and I live, yet not I, but Chriſt that liveth in me*, Gal. 2. 20.

So now who follow the *Apoſtles* in this their Poſſeſsion, ſucceſsion and Ordination, muſt follow them in the Poſſeſsion of this Faith of the ſon of God, and in this Life in him: and the *Apoſtle* ſaith in *Gal. 4. 9, 10. But now after that ye have known God, or rather, are known of God, how turn you again to the weak and beggarly Elements, whereunto ye deſire again to be in Bondage, ye obſerve Dayes and Moneths and Times, and Years, I am afraid of you, leſt I have beſtowed upon you Labour in vain.*

Now conſider this you that obſerve Dayes, Months, Times & Years, which he calls beggarly Elements, and Bondage upon ſuch that went into ſuch Things, he was afraid he had beſtowed his Labour in vain. Now you that do obſerve theſe Things, and follow theſe things the *Apoſtle* reproves, do not you ſucceed them that went into Bondage, and are not ſucceeders to the *Apoſtles* nor true Church: and in *1 Joh. 5. 12. 20. He that hath the Son hath Life, and he that hath not the Son hath not Life, and we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given to us an Underſtanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jeſus Chriſt, this is the true God and eternal Life.*

Now here you may ſee their Poſſeſsion, and what the *Apoſtles* and the Saints did poſſeſs, and they did confeſs Chriſt was come without them and within them, and they were in him: So all that follow the *Apoſtles* and true Church in their Poſſeſsion and

ſuc-

Succeſsion, muſt have this Confeſsion, that Chriſt is come, and hath given them an Underſtanding, and to be in them, and to have the Son if they have Life, ſignifying that all the Profeſſors of the Son of God, if they have not the Son of God, they have not Life, then they cannot ſucceed the *Apoſtles* and the true Church in the ſame Life, Poſſeſsion and Confeſsion from the ſame Faith, and ſo are no true Witneſſes.

Now who follow the *Apoſtles* in the Succeſsion and Ordination, are faithful Witneſſes; and in *Luke* 24. 48. Chriſt ſayes to his Diſciples, *Ye are Witneſſes of theſe Things*; and *Acts* 1. 8. *But ye ſhall receive Power after the Holy Ghoſt is come upon you, and ye ſhall be Witneſſes unto me in all* Judea, *and* Jeruſalem, *and* Samaria, *and to the utmoſt Parts of the Earth.*

Now mark, theſe were the faithful and true Witneſſes in the Power and Holy Ghoſt that witneſſed in *Judea*, *Jeruſalem* and *Samaria*, and to the utmoſt parts of the Earth, to Chriſt: Nor can any ſucceed the *Apoſtles*, and be true Witneſſes, but in the ſame Power and Holy Ghoſt; and in *Acts* 2. 32, 33. *This Jeſus hath God raiſed up, whereof we all are Witneſſes; therefore being by the right Hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the Promiſe of the Holy Ghoſt, he hath ſhed forth this which we now ſee and hear, &c.* and in *Acts* 3. 15. *Ye have killed the Prince of Life, whom God hath raiſed from the Dead, whereof we are Witneſſes*; now all theſe were Faithful Witneſſes: and *Acts* 5. 32. *We are his Witneſſes of theſe Things* (to wit, Chriſt) *and ſo is alſo the Holy Ghoſt, whom God hath given to them that obey him:* Mark then

then, thoſe that do diſobey God and Chriſt, receive not this Holy Ghoſt, and then they cannot ſucceed the Apoſtles in the ſame Holy Ghoſt, as faithful Witneſſes of Chriſt. And *Acts* 10.39. *We are Witneſſes of theſe things which he did* (to wit, Chriſt) *both in the Land of the* Jews *and at* Jeruſalem, *whom they ſlew and hanged on a Tree, &c.* And *Acts* 13. 30. *But God hath raiſed him from the Dead, and he was ſeen many Dayes of them which came up with him from* Galilee *unto* Jeruſalem, *and we are his Witneſſes unto the People, and we declare unto you glad Tidings.* And *Acts* 20.23. *Save that the holy Ghoſt witneſſeth in every City, ſaying, that Bonds and Afflictions abide me* (to wit, him that preach'd Chriſt.) And *Acts* 26. 22. *Having therefore obtained Help from God, I continue unto this Day, witneſſing both unto ſmall and great, ſaying no other things then thoſe which the Prophets and* Moſes *did ſay ſhould come, that Chriſt ſhould ſuffer and riſe from the Dead; and ſhould ſhew Light unto the* Gentiles.

Now here you may ſee his faithful Witneſſes in the Holy Ghoſt, witneſſed to all, ſmall or great, freely; and you that deny having the Holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in, and the Light of Chriſt, which he enlightens every one that comes into the World withal, which he ſhews to the People and to the *Gentiles*, you are no true Witneſſes nor Succeeders to the Apoſtles, that call his Light (that he hath ſhewed to us *Gentiles*, which ſhines in our Hearts, to give us the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Chriſt Jeſus) of the Devil, and the *Quakers* new Chriſt, and natural; you are no Succeeders of the Apoſtles in the Power, Light and Spirit,

nor

nor true Witneſſes, but their Oppoſers. And the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Theſ.* 2. 10. *Ye are witneſſes and God alſo, how holily, juſtly and unblamably we behaved our ſelves amongſt you that believed.*

Now we cannot witneſs that you walk ſo holily, Juſtly and Unblamably in Chriſt, we who are the true Believers: And can you ſay, that God is your Witneſs of your Holy, Juſt and Unblamable Life, as the Apoſtles did? and if you cannot, you do not ſucceed them in their Poſſeſsion and Succeſsion; and the Apoſtle ſaying before, *That the holy Ghoſt witneſſed in every City, ſaying, Bonds and Afflictions abide me.* Now you that do perſecute, and afflict, and bring into your Bonds and Priſons, and ſay, you have not the ſame Holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles had, and yet afflict them that be in the Holy Ghoſt, you are not the Succeeders of the Apoſtles in their Ordination and Succeſsion. And the Apoſtle ſaith, 1 *Tim.* 4. 14. *Neglect not the Gift that is in thee, &c.* and he was to *hold the Faith in a good Conſcience*, 1 Tim. 1. 19. and he calls him *his Son in the Faith*, 1 Tim. 1. 2. And in 1 Tim. 6. 11, 12. *But thou, O Man of God, follow Righteouſneſs, Godlineſs and Faith, Love, Patience, Meekneſs; fight the good Fight of Faith, lay hold on Eternal Life, whereunto thou art alſo called, and haſt profeſſed a good Profeſſion before many Witneſſes; and hold faſt the form of ſound Words, which thou haſt heard of me in Faith and Love, which is in Chriſt Jeſus* [mark] *in Faith he had heard* and in Love, which is in Chriſt Jeſus; this Form of ſound Words he was to hold faſt, which he had heard in Faith, &c. which Chriſt is the Author of, 2 *Tim.* 1. 13. So they that

be

be not in the ſame ſound Words, which is heard in Faith and Love in Chriſt Jeſus, do not ſucceed the *Apoſtles* in their Poſſeſsion nor Ordination: and in 2 *Tim.* 1. 14. *That good thing which was committed unto thee, keep by the holy Ghoſt, which dwelleth in us*; [mark] Keep by the Holy Ghoſt which dwelleth in us: and in 2 Tim. 2. 2. *And all the things thou haſt heard of me amongſt many Witneſſes, the ſame commit thou unto faithful Men, who ſhall be able to teach others alſo.*

Now mark, theſe followed the *Apoſtles* in the Succeſsion in the Holy Ghoſt, in the Faith in the good Things, which they dwelt in and committed unto faithful Men, which Myſtery of the Faith is held in a pure Conſcience; ſo none can ſucceed the *Apoſtle* nor *Timothy*, nor theſe faithful men, but in the ſame Faith, and in the ſame Gift of Prophecy, and in the good Thing, kept by the Holy Ghoſt dwelling in them: Now they that be not in the ſame Faith and Holy Ghoſt, and in the ſame good Thing the *Apoſtle Timothy* and thoſe faithful men were in, do not ſucceed the *Apoſtles* and them, though they get the Form of Godlineſs; and the *Apoſtle* and *Timothy* did not commit thoſe Things to faithful men, to teach them, and make a Trade of them; for they that do make a Trade of them are unfaithful men, and do not ſucceed the *Apoſtles* and *Timothy*, but are Succeeders of ſuch as reſiſt the Holy Ghoſt, and Diſobeyers of God; for the *Apoſtle* ſaith, *He gives the holy Ghoſt to them that obey him*: and the *Apoſtle* ſaith, 2 Tim. 3. 5. *Having a Form of Godlineſs, but denying the Power thereof, from ſuch turn away*: Now to have

a Form of Christ's Words, the *Apostles* Words, or *Timothy*'s Words, or these faithful mens Words, and deny the Power and the holy Ghost that led them to speak them forth, they are to be turned away from, and are no Succeeders of the *Apostles*: and the *Apostle* saith, *Heb.* 12. *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a Cloud of Witnesses, let us lay aside every Weight, and the Sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with Patience the Race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, &c.*

So you may see it is not any man, nor Writings, nor Words, that is the author of Peoples Faith, but Jesus Christ, and all must look unto him, the author and Finisher of their Faith for it, if they do succeed this Cloud of Witnesses, which Faith is the Gift of God, and brings to have access to God, in which God is pleased: and the *Apostle* saith, 1 Joh. *That which was from the beginning* (mark, the Beginning, to wit, Christ) *which we have heard* (mark, they have heard that which was from the Beginning) *which we have seen with our Eyes* (mark, they had seen with their Eyes that which was from the Beginning (*which we have lookt upon, and our Hands have handled of the Word of Life, which was from the beginning; for the Life was manifest, and we have seen it, and bear Witness, and shew it unto you, that Eternal Life which was with the Father, and was manifest unto us, that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye* (to wit, the Church) *also may have Fellowship with us, who had seen, heard, lookt upon and handled the Word of Life, and truly our Fellowship is with the Father and with*

with the Son Jesus Christ; and these things I write unto you, that your Joy may be full.

And now mark, he that hath not the Son hath not Life, and he that hath the Son hath Life; and therefore consider all ye Teachers and Churches in *Christendom*, where is your Fellowship? have you heard that which was from the Beginning? have you seen, lookt upon and handled, and so bear Witness to what you have seen, heard and handled? and do you declare that to your Churches which you have heard, seen and handled, as the *Apostles* did? If not, you do not succeed the *Apostles* in their hearing, in their handling, in their looking, and seeing, and witnessing, and declaring to others: For will not the VVorldlings Reason teach you in your common Courts, that if a Company of VVitnesses come to bear VVitness before a Judge, the Judge asketh them whether they have seen, heard or lookt upon the man; if they say, No, they never heard, nor lookt upon him, nor do not expect ever to see him while on this side the Grave; what do you think the Judge will say to these VVitnesses, that will come to witness for or against a man they have never seen, nor heard, nor lookt upon, nor never expect to see him: But you may say, the VVitnesses heard others say so of him; and will this please the Judge? let worldly Reason Judge: So consider, if you never heard God's Voice, nor see his shape, as you may see in *John* 5. Christ the Judge did not accept of such as the *Jews*, that were sayers of what the Prophets and *Moses* said and did; for saith he, *the Father himself, which hath sent me beareth witness of me*,

me, but ye have neither heard his Voice at any time, nor ſeen his Shape; then theſe were not nor are not the true or faithful Witneſſes of God nor Chriſt. And in *Jer.* 23. 21. *I have not ſent theſe Prophets, yet they ran, I have not ſpoken to them, yet they propheſie*; and Ver. 30, 31. *Therefore behold I am againſt the Prophets, ſaith the Lord, that ſteal my Words every one from his Neighbour: Behold I am againſt the Prophets, ſaith the Lord, that uſe their Tongues, and ſay, he ſaith it*; and Ver. 16. *Thus ſaith the Lord of Hoſts, hearken not unto the Prophets, nor unto the Words of the Prophets that propheſie unto you, they make you vain, they ſpeak a Viſion of their own Heart, and not from the Mouth of the Lord*: And in Ezek. 13. *Wo unto the Prophets that follow their own Spirit, and that ſee nothing, I have not ſent them, ſaith the Lord, and they ſay, the Lord ſaith it, albeit I have not ſpoken to them; I am againſt you, ſaith the Lord, becauſe with Lyes you make the Hearts of the Righteous ſad, whom I have not made ſad, &c. I will deliver my People out of your Hand, and you ſhall know that I am the Lord, &c.*

And now conſider theſe were not the Succeeders of the true Prophets, though they us'd their Tongues, and ſpoak, and ran with a Divination of their own Brains & Studies, the Lord was againſt ſuch, though they might ſay, thus ſaith the Lord, and get the Words of their Neigbbour Prophets.

So though you may ſay, thus ſaith Chriſt, and thus ſay the Apoſtles, and be ſuch as run and God never ſends nor Chriſt, & have neither heard God's Voice, nor ſeen his Shape, and the Lord nor Chriſt have not ſpoken to you, and ſay, you have not the

Holy

Holy Ghoſt as the Apoſtles had, and ſo follow your own Spirits, & ſee nothing; and do not all, who ſay, they have not the ſame Spirit the Apoſtles had, follow their own Spirits, and ſee nothing, and ſo are Succeeders of theſe falſe Prophets which God reproved, and not the true Prophets nor Apoſtles? *And how can you preach, except you be ſent?* ſaith the Apoſtle; for whom Chriſt ſends they be in the Holy Ghoſt, and none can call him Lord, but by the Holy Ghoſt.

And Chriſt ſaith, *That he may abide with you forever, to wit, the Comforter, the Holy Ghoſt,* Joh. 14. 16. *even the Spirit of truth that ſhall lead you into all truth,* and he ſhould dwell in them, and ſhould be with them; and alſo Chriſt ſaith, *He would be with them and in them to the End of the World.*

And now therefore how can you be faithful Witneſſes to God and Chriſt the Judge, by uſing your Tongues, and ſaying, he ſaith it, or by getting the Form of Godlineſs, and denying the Power and the Holy Ghoſt, to wit, the VVitneſs; and by your running and God never ſent you, and though you ſay, he ſaith it, and hath never ſpoken to you; yea, though you may be Miniſters of the Letter from *Geneſis* to *Revelations*, and ſay, he or they ſay it, and yet never hear his Voice, nor ſee his Shape at any Time; then how at any Time can you be true VVitneſſes, except you were in the ſame Power and Holy Ghoſt the Prophets and the Apoſtles were in?

He that hath the Son of God, hath Life, and he that

hath not the Son of God, hath not Life; then how can he be a VVitneſs of the Life that he hath not ſeen, heard nor handled? and if Chriſt be not in him, he is a Reprobate, and then how can Reprobates be faithful VVitneſſes of him, though they may talk of him by the Letter *he is come*, as the *Jews* by the Letter talkt *he was to come*?

And therefore they that have the Son of God they have Life, they ſee it, they hear it, they handle it, they look upon it, that Life that was in the Beginning, and can ſay, *the Son of God is come, and hath given us an Underſtanding, and we know him that is true, and we are in him that is true*, and ſo are faithful VVitneſſes, Succeeders of the Apoſtles and the true Church, and can declare what their Eyes have ſeen, and their Hands have handled, and what they have heard, and what they have looked upon, and bear witneſs and ſhew to others that Eternal Life, which was with the Father, and manifeſt unto us and in us, and can both witneſs and declare this to others freely, as they have received freely from God, that others may have Fellowſhip with them, and can ſay truly, *Our Fellowſhip is with the Father and with the Son*, and this we declare and witneſs to: I ſay, all that ſucceed the Apoſtles and the true Church, it muſt be in this Hearing, Sight, Handling, VVitneſſing and Declaring of this Poſſeſſion of this Life, Chriſt that was in the Apoſtles and the true Church, elſe they are no Succeeders to them, nor in their Poſſeſſion: For all the falſe Witneſſes againſt the Prophets, Chriſt and the Apoſtles,

they

they might profeſs the Scriptures; and the Beaſt, Whore, Anti-chriſt, Satan's Meſſengers and falſe Apoſtles, they might profeſs Chriſt in Words; but they that *have him not, have not Life*, and ſo are no true Hearers, Seers, Witneſſes nor Succeeders, neither can they call Jeſus Lord, except they be in the Holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles were in, neither can they witneſs as they did without the Holy Ghoſt, neither can they build up one another, except they be in the ſame Holy Ghoſt the Apoſtles and true Church were in, praying in the Holy Ghoſt, building up one another in the moſt Holy Faith.

So all true Succeſſion is in this building in the Holy Ghoſt and Holy Faith that they were in; and if they be not in this, they are Pluckers down, and Scatterers from the Head, Lo here, lo there, lo there Chriſt without them, and not within them, and ſo no Succeeders to the Apoſtles, nor true Church, but to ſuch, againſt whom the Cry is, Lo here, lo there, which Chriſt commands not to follow.

And in 2 Cor. 2. 17. *For we are not as many which corrupt the Word of God, but as of Sincerity, but as of God in the Sight of God ſpeak we in Chriſt.* And in 2 Pet. 2. 3. *And through Covetouſneſs ſhall they with feigned Words make Merchandize of you, &c.*

Now conſider, ſuch as theſe did not follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion nor Ordination, nor any that be in feigned Words, who through Covetouſneſs make Merchandize of God's, Chriſt's, the Prophets and the Apoſtles Words, and of People.

And none follow the Apoſtles in their Succeſſion and Ordination, but ſuch as be of God, and in the Sight of God ſpeak the Truth in Sincerity in Chriſt Jeſus.

So all they that teach for *filthy Lucre, and ſerve not the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, but their own Bellies, and by good Words and fair Speeches deceive the Hearts of the ſimple*, Rom. 6. 8. all ſuch follow not the Apoſtles and true Church in their Succeſſion, but are reproved by them.

And in Numb. 28. You may ſee how God ordained his Law in Mount *Sinai*, and that his People ſhould walk in it, which Law commanded their Offerings and the Prieſts to offer and attend upon their Servicce.

But Chriſt Jeſus, who ends the Law and the Offerings, and the Prieſts, by offering up himſelf once for all, he ordained his Diſciples to preach, and commands them, FREELY as they had received of him, ſo FREELY to give.

And therefore they that follow the Apoſtles in their Ordination and in their Succeſſion, muſt give FREELY, as they have received FREELY.

And Chriſt commands his Diſciples *Not to Swear AT ALL*, but keep to *YEA* and *NAY* in their Communication, and to bleſs, and curſe not.

And the Apoſtle that kept in the Ordination of

of Christ and his Command, forbad Swearing and Cursing, and set up Yea and Nay, as Christ commanded.

Now tell them that swear and curse, do not follow the Apostles in their Succession nor Ordination nor Qualification.

And Christ forbids his Ministers for being called *GRACIOUS LORDS*, as the *Gentiles* were, or for being called of Men *MASTER*, as the *Pharisees* were.

And therefore they that follow the Apostles in Christ's Ordination, and in the Succession of the Apostles, must keep his Commands; for such Ministers that do plead for such Titles, and to be called of Men *MASTERS* and *GRACIOUS LORDS*, succeed the *Pharisees* and the *Gentiles*, and not Christ nor the Apostles.

And therefore none can succeed the Apostles, but in the same Power of God and Holy Ghost that they were in, who gave forth the Scriptures, and they must receive Christ, and live in him, who is the ROCK OF AGES, and so to know him to be with them and in them to the End of their Age, and so to the End of the World, who is the ROCK and FOUNDATION of all the Righteous in their Ages; and they that do succeed the Apostles, must succeed them in their Work and Foundation.

So in the Light, in the Life, and in the Power of Christ Jesus, and in him, and he in them, who is the first and last; here is all the true Succession and Succeeders, who walk and live in Christ Jesus, and he in them, who is first and last.

Swarthmore, *the 10th of the 9th Month*, 1675. G. Fox.

THE END.